Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Joseph F. Pekas graduated from Scotland High School in Scotland, South Dakota, and received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Southern State College in Springfield, South Dakota, and his Master of Music Degree from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Joseph started his teaching career in Tripp and then moved to Mitchell, South Dakota, in 1962 to become band director for the Mitchell School District until his retirement in 1999 and has published hundreds of songs written for individuals, bands, and ensembles; and,

Whereas, Joseph introduced Stage Band, later to be called Jazz Band, to the Mitchell High School and Junior High for which they are still receiving numerous awards and was guest conductor, clinician, consultant, and contest judge for hundreds of events; and,

Whereas, Joseph has received numerous awards such as Secondary Educator of the Year and the American School Band Director Award and has been inducted into the Dakota Music Hall of Fame in 2011 and received an official proclamation for his 43 years of service to the South Dakota National Guard 147th Army Band; and,

Whereas, Joseph started directing the Mitchell Municipal Band in 1966 and has continued the tradition of free weekly concerts during the months of June and July for the citizens of Mitchell; and,

Whereas, Joseph has dedicated his life to the love of music and has helped to bring that love of music to thousands in the Mitchell community and beyond:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, July 27, 2016, as

JOSEPH F. PEKAS DAY

in South Dakota, and I join his wife, Kay, and daughters Deb, Kathy, Jane, and Lisa, 7 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren, fellow musicians, and his many friends in recognizing his 50 years of faithful service.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State